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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/871,335	05/31/2001	Douglas B. Quine	F-182	9597
919	7590	04/06/2006	EXAMINER	
PITNEY BOWES INC. 35 WATERVIEW DRIVE P.O. BOX 3000 MSC 26-22 SHELTON, CT 06484-8000			BASS, JON M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3639	

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/871,335

Applicant(s)

DOUGLAS QUINE

Examiner

Jon Bass

Art Unit

3639

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/19/2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 14-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 14-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Status Of Claims

1. Claims 1-12 and 14-28 are pending in the current application. Claims 1-12, 14-17 and 22-26 have been amended. Claim 13 has been cancelled.

2. Claims 1-12 and 14-28 have been fully examined.

Response to Amendment

3. Applicant's arguments filed on December 19, 2005 have been considered.

4. Applicant argues (with respect to claims 1 and 8, among other things) that Hunter (5,243,654) fails to teach or suggest " a plurality of sensors for collecting system data". The Examiner notes that new art has been introduced to further exemplify Hunters position. George Brookner (6,098,032), discloses in column 3, lines 10-19, that once communication has been established between processor and the Data Center, the processor is instructed to monitor systems, such as motor acceleration, speed, sensor watching time, non-volatile memory etc. This suggests that multiple sensors are need to monitor

this process from the collected data. In addition the applicant argues that Hunter fails to teach or suggest "a comparator for comparing the measured data with predetermined sets of data". The Examiner note that while Hunter does disclose this feature, to further pin point the related feature, Brookner was introduced to further explain in detail the comparator. Brookner disclose in column 3, lines 20-45; that summarizing the performance level of the system will be stored and compared against predetermined parameters by the data center.

5. Applicant argues with respect to Claim 1 only, that the meaning of "system data" refers to "data related to the conditions of the mail processing equipment". The Examiner note that Hunter discloses in column 6, lines 50-67; that processor is connected to receive data from a sensor. Both sensors are associated with the meter. This suggests that relevant data is collected relating to the postage meter data.

6. With respect to claims 8 and 16, the applicant argues that Hunter fails to disclose "comparison with any form of predetermined value or data". The Examiner note that in

column 2, lines 11-14; that the calculated combination is compared to the entered combination. This suggests by Hunter that the value or data is being compared in combination with prior stored data. Brookner was introduced to further explain in detail the comparator. Brookner disclose in column 3, lines 20-45; that summarizing the performance level of the system will be stored and compared against predetermined parameters by the data center.

7. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1, claims 9-12 and 14-15 depend from claim 8 and claims 17-28 depend from claim 16, these claims are not allowable for at least the reasons set above and the for the same reasons set from the previous Office Action Dated September 19, 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject

matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-12 and 14-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kevin Hunter, (US Patent No: 5,243,654), hereinafter referenced as Hunter in view of George Brookner (Patent Number 6,098,032), hereinafter referred to as Brookner.

As Per Claim 1:

Hunter discloses a mail processing system, comprising, [{{col.2, line 61}}; metering system]: for collecting system data, [{{col.6, lines 58-59}}; connected to receive data]; a processor system receiving said system data and generating feedback signals, [{{fig 4, 202, 220}}; processor, meter]; and [{{col.6, lines 63-65}}, sensors connected to meter] and [{{col.6, lines 58-59}}; processor connected to receive data] and a communication system for communicating said feedback signals to at least one of a local user and a remote user, [{{col.4, lines 35-40}}, represents exchange of data between data center], But does not explicitly mention the disclosure of having a "plurality of sensors". However Brookner discloses in column 3, lines 10-19, referencing to a communication has been established between a processor, and the processor monitors preselected parameters,

such as acceleration, speed, sensor watching time, non-volatile memory. This suggests that "plurality of sensors" are being used to monitor the different parameters. This is has been taught by Brookner with motivation being; selected performance parameters relating to postal items that are being monitored (using sensors), then compared against other postal operations disclosed in the [abstract]. This combination relates to an invention that is capable of processing mail items while using a plurality of sensors for collecting data to be compared for an analysis.

As Per Claim 8 and 16:

Hunter discloses a mail processing system, comprising, [col.2, line 61]; metering system]: a computer system, [fig 7, 320]; computer] the receiving said, said computer system further comprising, [fig 1, 42]; customer database]: a database system for storing predetermined sets of data respectively, [fig 1, 42]; database]; and a communication system coupled to said computer system for communicating the feedback signals to at least one of a remote user and a local user, [col.4, lines 35-40], represents exchange of data between data center]. Hunter does not explicitly disclose a plurality of sensors. However Brookner discloses in column 3, lines 10-19, referencing to a

communication has been established between a processor, and the processor monitors pre-selected parameters, such as acceleration, speed, sensor watching time, non-volatile memory. This suggests that "plurality of sensors" are being used to monitor the different parameters. This is has been taught by Brookner with motivation being; selected performance parameters relating to postal items that are being monitored (using sensors), then compared against other postal operations disclosed in the [abstract]. This combination relates to an invention that is capable of processing mail items while using a plurality of sensors for collecting data to be compared for an analysis. Broonker also discloses in column 3, lines 33-37, that once data is stored, it is then compared against the predetermined parameters (data) by the data center. This clearly displays the data that is collected is compared against other stored data to validate the authenticity. This process is being taught by Brookner with motivation that a more efficient invention that deals with using a plurality of sensors along with data that is being compared. This produces an invention that is capable of storing data that is predetermined that is collected using a plurality of sensors, then compare the data against previous stored predetermined data.

As Per Claim 2:

Hunter further discloses the mail processing system wherein said processor system further comprises, [{{fig 7, 326}}; processor]:

a database for storing predetermined sets of system data, [{{col.2, lines 65-67}}, mechanism for storing information]; and

a comparator for comparing the system data received from said sensors with the predetermined sets of system data to generate feedback signals, [{{fig 5B, 268}}; compare with current readings],

As Per Claim 3:

Hunter further discloses the mail processing system wherein said communication system is a wireline communication system, [{{col.11, lines 53-64}}, communication by dedicated line].

As Per Claim 4:

Hunter further discloses the mail processing system wherein said communication system is a wireless communication system, [{{col.11, lines 53-64}}, communication by dedicated line].

As Per Claim 5:

Hunter further discloses the mail processing system wherein said system data are selected from the group consisting of preventative maintenance schedules, and performance statistics, [{{fig 2, and col.4, lines 42-43}}; software routine that controls the operation of meter].

As Per Claim 6:

Hunter further discloses the mail processing system wherein the system data stored in said processor system is variable, [{{fig 1, 22, 28}}; processor, non-volatile memory].

As Per Claim 7:

Hunter further discloses the mail processing system wherein said feedback signals include improvement recommendations, [{{col.8, lines 18-21}}; call data center, receive data, determine if valid, error message is displayed].

As Per Claim 9:

Hunter further discloses the mail processing system wherein said communication system is a wireline communication system, [{{col.4, lines 35-40}}; represents exchange of data between data

center].

As Per Claim 10:

Hunter further discloses the mail processing system wherein said communication system is a wireless communication system, [{{fig 4}}, utility system in accordance with the invention].

As Per Claim 11:

Hunter further discloses the mail processing system wherein said are selected from the group consisting of data related to preventative maintenance schedules, and performance statistics, [{{fig 2, and col.4, lines 42-43}}; software routine that controls the operation of meter].

As Per Claim 12:

Hunter further discloses the mail processing system wherein said data are selected from the group consisting of comprises data related to business rules, postal rates, and customer profiles, [{{fig 1, 42}}; customer database].

As Per Claim 14:

Hunter further discloses the mail processing system wherein said feedback signals include improvement recommendations,

[{col.8, lines 18-21}; call data center, receive data, determine if valid, error message is displayed].

As Per Claim 15:

Hunter further discloses the mail processing system wherein said feedback signals include cost savings information, [{col.6, lines 65-67}; sensor provides to processor data information].

As Per Claim 17:

Hunter further discloses the method wherein: the predetermined value is stored in a database system, [{col.3, lines 3-4}; storage mechanism].

As Per Claim 18:

Hunter further discloses the method of wherein said database system is located within said computer system, [{col.4, lines 26-28}; data center includes computer connected to memory containing customer database].

As Per Claim 19:

Hunter further discloses the method of wherein said database system is located remote from said computer system,

[{col.4, lines 26-28}; data center includes computer connected to memory containing customer database].

As Per Claim 20:

Hunter further discloses the method wherein said communication step is performed using a wireline communication system, [{col.4, lines 35-40}; represents exchange of data between data center].

As Per Claim 21:

Hunter further discloses the method wherein said communication step is performed using a wireless communication system, [{col.4, lines 35-40}; represents exchange of data between data center].

As Per Claim 22:

Hunter further discloses the method of: wherein said parameter is related to mail objects processed by said mail processing system, [{fig 5A}, controls the meter system, review description];

As Per Claim 23:

Hunter further discloses the apparatus wherein the

parameters is selected from the group consisting of preventative maintenance schedules, and performance statistics, [{fig 2, and col.4, lines 42-43}; software routine that controls the operation of meter].

As Per Claim 24:

Hunter further discloses the method wherein the parameters is selected from the group consisting of business rules, postal rates, and customer profiles, [{fig 1, 42}; customer database].

As Per Claim 25:

Hunter further discloses the method wherein: said predetermined values is selected from the group consisting of predetermined mail processing system values and predetermined mail object values, [{fig 6, 300, 304}; review and verify I.D. information, update records].

As Per Claim 26:

Hunter further discloses the method of claim 25, further comprises: varying said predetermined values, [{col.3, lines 3-4}; storage mechanism].

As Per Claim 27:

Hunter further discloses the method wherein said feedback signals include improvement recommendations, [{col.8, lines 18-21}; call data center, receive data, determine if valid, error message is displayed].

As Per Claim 28:

Hunter further discloses the method wherein said feedback signals include cost savings information, [{col.6, lines 65-67}; sensor provides to processor data information].

Conclusion

Examiners note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line number in the response for the convenience of the applicants. It respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the response, to fully consider the reference in its entirety as a potentially teaching reference.

Any concerns in regard to this communication, the examiner **Jon Bass** can be reached at **(571) 272-6905** between the hours of **9-6pm Monday through Friday**. The fax number for the establishment where the application is being process is **(571) 273-8300**.

If an attempt to reach the examiner is unsuccessful for any reason, the examiner's immediate supervisor, **John Hayes** can be reached at **(571) 272-6708**.

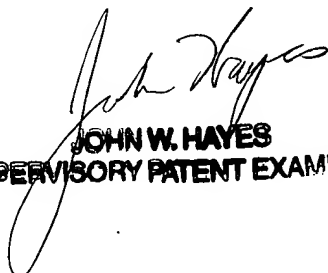
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Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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